

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1239

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor Judge Mark J. Fishburn on the occasion of his retirement from the bench.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing a gifted jurist who has devoted his career to serving the people of this State with integrity and aplomb; and

WHEREAS, Judge Mark J. Fishburn is taking a much-deserved retirement after nearly nineteen years of dedicated and insightful service as judge of Division VI, Criminal Court, 20th Judicial District, having decided not to seek another term in the upcoming election; and

WHEREAS, Judge Fishburn was appointed as the first judge of the newly created Division VI by Governor Phil Bredesen on September 1, 2003; and

WHEREAS, prior to this appointment, Mark Fishburn served as the judge of Division II of the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County General Sessions Court, having been elected to that post in September 1998, and he subsequently served as presiding judge of the General Sessions Courts, in which capacity he initiated a highly praised Mental Health Court program in July 2000; and

WHEREAS, before taking his place on the bench, Judge Fishburn was in private practice for eighteen years, specializing in criminal law, personal injury, and workers' compensation cases; and

WHEREAS, an active and respected member of the legal profession, Judge Mark Fishburn is a member of the American Judges Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville Bar Association, and Tennessee Judicial Conference; he is also a member of numerous justice and mental health-related boards and regularly serves as presiding judge for Appellate Moot Court Programs at Harvard Law School and the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Judge Fishburn graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1972 and obtained his law degree from Nashville School of Law in 1979; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he has been honored with the Nashville Bar Association's Assistance of Counsel Award, the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Association's Outstanding Mental Health Professional Award, the National Association for Mental Illness – Tennessee Chapter's Professional Award in Mental Health, and the NAMI – Nashville Ambassador of Hope Award in Criminal Justice; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his service on the bar and bench, Judge Fishburn has served his community through independent volunteer work with various charities and civic organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Rochelle Center, which he has served as a member of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious tenure on the bench, Judge Fishburn has exhibited the greatest integrity and a strong commitment to justice, and he is most worthy of our approbation on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that it is a pleasure and a privilege for this body to honor Judge Mark J. Fishburn on the occasion of his retirement after nearly two decades as Judge of Division VI, Criminal Court, 20th Judicial District, extending to him our gratitude for a difficult job well done and our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.